



# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

FALL EDITION, VOLUME 2



**A message from E. Tim Cummins, Commission Vice Chair.** Is Bernalillo County prepared for a disaster? The Bernalillo County Office of Emergency Management was established by the County Commission. Since 911, the more prominent role and ever-increasing responsibilities of emergency management have been recognized. The staff is responsible for responding to all hazard emergency situations.

Bernalillo County is exposed to natural hazards such as wildfires and severe weather as well as hazardous material accidents as a result of the transportation and/or storage of chemicals. The Office of Emergency Management also plans and prepares for conventional, nuclear, biological, incendiary or explosive terrorist attacks.

Preparedness for potential threats is addressed through an All-Hazard Emergency Operations Plan, training exercises, and establishing close working relationships with other emergency operation agencies.

The OEM uses federal homeland security and emergency planning funds to improve the County's overall disaster and terrorism mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery activities to help protect those who live, work and visit Bernalillo County.

## METROPOLITAN ASSESSMENT TREATMENT AND SERVICES (MATS) OPENS

"With the recent opening of the Metropolitan Assessment and Treatment Services (MATS) facility, Bernalillo County is well on its way to establishing a comprehensive and coordinated Detoxification, Recovery Treatment and Transitional Housing program for public inebriates, including individuals with co-occurring disorders, says Commissioner Deanna Archuleta-Loeser." The focus is on expanding services and developing partnerships with existing community medical, mental health, alcohol/drug and homeless service agencies.

MATS includes short-term detoxification, up to 30-day recovery treatment services and access to transitional housing options

with continued outpatient treatment, and case management and supportive services. Funding for these programs comes from the Bernalillo County DWI Program's detox and treatment grant, a recurring \$1.7 million appropriation intended to tackle the public inebriate issues facing Bernalillo County.

**Substance Abuse Recovery Program** - Up to 30 days of recovery substance abuse treatment services are available to male and female clients who express the desire to regain their sobriety from drug or alcohol abuse and who meet ASAM eligibility criteria.

**Transitional Housing (4 to 6 months) and Case Management** Especially for homeless clients, this phase is critical to the long-term success and recovery of participants. The MATS program will continue to work closely with community agencies providing permanent and transitional housing to ensure the housing needs of departing clients are met. Additionally, Bernalillo County was awarded a legislative appropriation in the 2005 regular session to design and build a transitional housing facility on the MATS site.

**Community Outreach Services** - A comprehensive outreach effort is envisioned that will bring together assessment services not only for outpatient substance abuse vouchers but a range of other services including assessment for VA benefits, SSI/SSDI, EBT, TANF, Medicaid, and Section 8 housing. Commitments to work cooperatively in this effort have already been received from the VA, Abq. Health Care for the Homeless, UNM and the Homeless Advocacy Coalition.



Bernalillo Commissioner Deanna Archuleta-Loeser and United States Senator Pete Domenici toured the Metropolitan Assessment Treatment Services Center (MATS) in August

## ISLETA BOULEVARD PHASE II GROUNDBREAKING

Bernalillo County Commissioner Teresa L. Cordova was at the center of the celebration marking the groundbreaking for Phase II of the Isleta Boulevard Reconstruction Project. There was a large public turnout and Commissioner Cordova thanked community members and organizations for their support.

"We are preserving the character of Isleta Boulevard, and at the same time, improving the flow of traffic and installing a variety of new features," said Commissioner Cordova. "The County's Public Works staff has worked closely with the community on the design and will continue to host public meetings and project updates to keep them informed through construction."

The Phase II project consists of improvements on Isleta Boulevard from Arenal Road, SW to Rio Bravo Boulevard, SW. The length of the Isleta portion of the project is approximately 1.8 miles. The improvements include drainage facilities, roadway expansion at key intersections, lighting, traffic control signals, curb and gutter, bike lanes, permanent signing and striping, landscaping, streetscape enhancements and miscellaneous improvements. Five storm drainage and water quality detention ponds are to be constructed for the benefit of the Isleta corridor and to relieve regional flooding in portions of the project area.

Funding for the project is approximately \$23 million dollars with appropriations from Bernalillo County Bond Funds, the Federal Housing Administration, Legislative funds, AMAFCA and the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority.

The contractor doing the work is Twin Mountain Construction Company. Every effort will be made to limit traffic delays but some disruption is inevitable and we appreciate your patience during the construction period.



## LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO STOP ILLEGAL DUMPING

"Illegal dumping is the disposal of waste in an unpermitted area, usually dumped out of trucks along the roadside, in open areas and late at night," says Alan Armijo, Chair of the Bernalillo County Commission. "Materials typically include construction and demolition waste, scrap tires, appliances, furniture, yard waste and household trash."

It is a serious problem in Bernalillo County. Each year, thousands of tons of trash are dumped illegally. Illegal dumping affects all of us from the toxic chemicals in the water, trash blocking arroyos that can cause flooding and the rodents and

insects that it attracts can cause disease. Illegal dumping lowers property values, threatens our quality of life and our sense of community. The good news, you can be part of the solution. All county residents can take their excess trash to any of the four convenience centers: Montessa Park, Don Reservoir, Eagle Rock, and the East Mountain Transfer Station that are open seven days a week. They can also take advantage of the FREE large item pick-up service offered each month by Waste Management. Construction debris can be taken to the Southwest Landfill for a reasonable fee. For more information about illegal dumping and legal alternatives, contact the Bernalillo County Solid Waste Department at 224-1639 or visit the County website at [www.bernco.gov](http://www.bernco.gov).

## EAST MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY MEETING

County Commissioner Michael Brasher recently hosted a community meeting at Los Vecinos Community Center regarding the East Mountain Area Plan (EMAP). Residents were invited to provide comments regarding the proposed changes to the draft East Mountain Area Plan 2005 that were discussed at a recent BC Planning Commission meeting.

Update of the East Mountain Area Plan lists goals for the current physical, social and environmental factors for the East Mountain Area, as well as a community survey. As a result of a number of public meetings, the community has identified the issues that have become more increasingly critical since the last plan. Some of the suggested changes include strengthening and clarifying policy language, integrating planning matrix, including possible implementation techniques and removing language about Transfer of Development Rights.

Residents can view the EMAP at the Tijeras Main Library or on the County's website at [www.bernco.gov](http://www.bernco.gov) under the Zoning, Building and Planning Department. "I would like to invite East Mountain residents to be part of this important process," says Commissioner Brasher.

## NEW LEADERSHIP AT THE COUNTY



Jeff Landers

Jeff Landers was recently appointed County Attorney by the County Commission. Jeff has worked for Bernalillo County as legal counsel since 1996 and has a great deal of experience in County issues ranging from labor and employment law, construction law, election law, procurement law, property tax, and many other areas.

Jeff is a graduate of Nazareth College of Rochester and received his Juris Doctor degree from Creighton University School of Law. Jeff has been licensed to practice law in New Mexico since 1990. While working as an attorney in the private sector, he represented a number of large national retail and drug store chains in labor and employment litigation. Jeff also represented the largest domestic automobile manufacturer a number of automobile dealerships around the State of New Mexico in warranty defense and other matters.

Jeff is admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court, Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals, United States District Court for the District of New Mexico, and in all New Mexico state courts. As the County Attorney, Jeff will be primarily responsible for representing the County Commission, County Management and Elected officials regarding all legal matters.

Edward Chismar joins the County as the new Parks and Recreation Director. He comes to the County from the City of Rio Rancho where he was Director of Cultural Enrichment, which includes Library Services, Senior Services, Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Public Access Channel, and Parks and Recreation. Under his leadership, the City of Rio Rancho received numerous national and state awards for various programs and services. As Director of Parks and Recreation, he will be overseeing operation of seven community centers, youth and senior services which include sports programs, preschool recreation, before and after school, arts, dance, music, summer recreation and literacy. He will also oversee the management of County parks and open space and the special programs section.



Ed Chismar

Paul Roybal is the new Chief Information Officer for the County's Information Technology Department. Paul brings extensive experience in the IT field after working 22 years with Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court. There, he developed and implemented case management, financial management, client tracking, and human resources / attendance systems.

In addition, he represented Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court and New Mexico Judicial Branch of government in inter and intra agency data integration, as well as policy development and he also served on the DWI Task Force under Governor Bruce King. As IT Director for the County, Paul will oversee administering communication networks, recording and managing tax bills and assessment notices, voter registration and election processing systems, support for the Web site and other systems.



Paul Roybal



## PUBLIC SAFETY NEWS

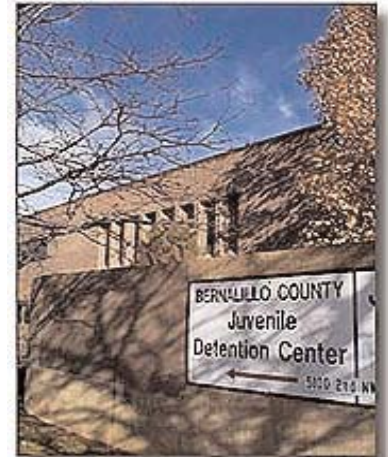
**Juvenile Detention Center (JDC) - A National Model** - JDC was recently named a national model by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. "It's a milestone," says Tom Swisstack, Director of Bernalillo County's Juvenile Detention Center ("JDC"). "Becoming a national model affirms our efforts in re-engineering Juvenile Detention services over the past several years without compromising the safety of our communities."

The Bernalillo County JDC houses approximately 40 juveniles on a given day. That's down from 135 a day five years ago. Thanks to the efforts of Director Swisstack and the JDC staff, today more kids are in mental health programs, school classes and community service programs instead of jail facilities. "The center still houses dangerous juveniles," says Swisstack, "and they are in cells."

The mission of the JDC is to protect the community from those youth placed in its custody in a safe, secure, and humane environment according to principles of Direct Supervision and the standards of the American Correctional Association. And ultimately, the goal is to create and maintain alternatives to detention through community supervision programs that promote education, healthy lifestyles, and positive choices for youth and their families.

"They've reduced the population while protecting the safety of the community," said Raquel Mariscal, senior associate for juvenile justice reform at the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Since 1948 the Annie E. Casey Foundation has worked to build better futures for disadvantaged children and their families in the United States.

For more information on the JDC, see the <http://bernco.gov>, the official website of Bernalillo County. The Annie E. Casey Foundation website is at <http://www.aecf.org/>.



### FIRE CHIEF SERVES AS PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL ORGANIZATION

Chief Clark serves as President of the National Fire Chief Organization - Bernalillo County Fire Chief Bett Clark was recently sworn in as President of the Southwest Division of the International Association of Fire Chiefs. "Throughout the United States, there are only fourteen departments in which the chief of the department is a woman," says Chief Clark. "I am honored to represent this valuable organization not only as a woman, but as a Chief."

Chief Clark's responsibilities include representing Fire Chiefs and other Fire Service Leaders from five southwestern area states including New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana. She participated in writing the Division's Strategic Plan and initiated Diversity in the Fire Service as one of the goals. She also represented the Division at the IAFC 2005 two-year Strategic Planning and Leadership Forum in Denver.

Chief Clark is also responsible for writing articles for the Division Newsletter, "Fireground," selecting educational opportunities for members, promoting fire service initiatives throughout the division such as the use of a daily statewide fire service news sites and general purchasing agreements.

### SHERIFF LEADS RESCUE, ASSISTANCE EFFORTS

Shortly after Hurricane Katrina wreaked havoc and destruction in New Orleans, Sheriff Darren White assembled an Emergency Response Team that included Chief Deputy David Linthicum, two Lieutenants, two Sergeants, 29 Deputies and a Tactical Flight Officer to provide back up for law enforcement officers and assist in rescue and restore the peace in New Orleans. Joining them were five Fire Fighters, three of whom were also Paramedics from the Bernalillo County Fire Department and they provided medical care. Lieutenant Darrel Lindsey led the group. The team was self contained and brought enough equipment, supplies, and vehicles to begin helping immediately.

Amidst the death and destruction, their first assignment was to provide security for the airboat patrols bringing individuals to safety who were stranded in their homes by the rising waters. Very quickly, this Emergency Response Team began rescuing people as well. Operating in harsh and extreme conditions, these brave men and women over the course of ten days saved lives, rescued pets and patrolled the streets to maintain law and order. This outstanding group of men and women rescued a total of 203 individuals, arrested ten looters, and contributed countless hours of patrol through devastating conditions.